

## House Passes Defense Authorization

*Moran Supports Increase in Military Pay, Improved Funding for Facilities and Housing*

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced House passage of legislation that would increase military pay and improve funding for housing and facilities on military installations in Kansas. H.R. 4200, The National Defense Authorization Act of 2005, lays the groundwork for the defense appropriations process. A conference committee will now work out the differences between the House and Senate-passed versions of the bill.

"Our soldiers are deployed in many dangerous parts of the world, which is why we must provide our troops with better housing and better pay," Moran said. "The freedoms that Americans are able to enjoy exist because of the selfless sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. If we are to continue to have the strongest military in the world, we must continue to increase the compensation for our soldiers."

The Defense Authorization Act includes an average 3.5 percent pay raise for military personnel and increases the pay for those serving in a combat zone, or in direct support of a combat zone, from \$300 to \$750 per month. It also allows up to \$3,000 per month for reservists who may experience a pay reduction from their regular job when they are called to active duty. The legislation also eliminates the out-of-pocket housing expenses for military personnel.

In addition, the legislation authorizes funding for:

- \$7.451 million to construct the Army Reserve Facility in Hays
- \$33 million to replace family housing at Ft. Riley
- \$41 million for construction of new barracks at Ft. Riley
- \$3.05 million for a new communication center at Ft. Riley

"Our Kansas soldiers who have been asked to protect this nation - guard, reserve and active duty soldiers - are being called away from their families, their communities and their jobs to serve our country," Moran said. "As this legislation works its way through Congress, we must ensure that we continue to give our soldiers the pay and the housing that they deserve."

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